



# Wisconsin E-Brief for Partnership Schools

January 2014

An e-newsletter from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to promote family-school-community partnerships for children's learning

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## *Learning-Focused Resources for Families*

The school year is well on the way and deep learning is taking place. Continue classroom learning by offering families ideas for activities and resources they can use at home with children. Here are a few ideas:

- Do-At-Home activities in reading, writing, and math for K-6 students: [www.fwps.org/cur/piap](http://www.fwps.org/cur/piap)
- For learning fractions in English and Spanish: [www.mathteachingseries.com/preview\\_bilingual.pdf](http://www.mathteachingseries.com/preview_bilingual.pdf).
- Monthly learning calendar for families, Baltimore County Public Schools: <http://www.bcps.org/offices/dpd/monthly-learning-calendar.html>
- Parent learning calendars from the Bullhead City, AZ, School District: [http://www.bullheadschoools.com/parents/parent\\_learning\\_calendars](http://www.bullheadschoools.com/parents/parent_learning_calendars)
- Parent learning calendars from the Creighton, AZ, School District: [http://www.creightonschools.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=180085&type=d&pREC\\_ID=375156](http://www.creightonschools.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=180085&type=d&pREC_ID=375156)
- Khan Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/about>. Over [3,600 videos](#) on everything from arithmetic to physics, economics, and history.

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## *Effective Partnership Practices from DPI VISTA*

In the final year of its VISTA AmeriCorps Grant to strengthen family-school-community partnerships, DPI VISTA members continue to cultivate sustainable practices at their school sites:

**Kelly Berg at Hackett Elementary School, Beloit**, is working with community partners to offer parents help with child behavioral issues. In response to parent survey results, a health professional from the local hospital presented to parents and helped the school create a behavior support group for parents and children at a community outreach center. Love and Logic workshops are planned, in collaboration with the UW Extension, later this year.

**Joe Somers at Pulaski High School, Milwaukee**, has advocated to make production of the school newsletter part of the journalism class curriculum. He has also revamped the school Facebook page to feature weekly learning resources for students and families, such as <http://www.sosmath.com/>, [www.duolingo.com](http://www.duolingo.com), and [www.codeacademy.com](http://www.codeacademy.com).

**Kaitlin Svabek at Craig High School, Janesville**, has formed a 12-member Partnership Action Team to engage families in meeting school goals. The team meets monthly before school, breaking into subcommittees to address identified issues. As a result, the school has planned several anti-bullying events.

## *Two Online Resources Build Family- School Relationships*

### **New from the DPI Title I Team**

Two, new, interactive PowerPoints designed to spur school staff discussion and capacity for building positive relationships with families are available on the [DPI Title I Parent Involvement webpage](#):

- **Conferences: Building Relationships with Families** and handouts, and
- **Between the Open House and Parent-Teacher Conferences**: an overview of involving families to support student learning.

Both presentations expand upon research by Harvard Lecturer Dr. Karen Mapp that encourage schools to “Welcome, Honor, and Connect” families to student learning.

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## *Partnerships with Museums and Libraries Create Lifelong Learners*

### **Urgent call to action in new report**

Libraries and museums of all types can deliver critical early learning resources to children and families, especially those most in need. Yet, in too many communities, museums and libraries are not “at the table” helping to craft the policies and practices that link children and their families to early learning resources, claims a new report from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The report, ***Growing Young Minds: How Museums and Libraries Create Lifelong Learners***, offers examples of excellent community and school partnerships with local museums and libraries. It urges communities to act promptly to leverage local learning resources that benefit all children, but especially for young children from vulnerable households.

Among the report’s recommendations:

- **Communities can** include museums and libraries in initiatives designed to increase family engagement in school readiness and transition to kindergarten. Community services can also make it possible for underserved, vulnerable families and children to access libraries and museums, for example, by leveraging public transportation, and reduced-fee structures.
- **Schools can** offer joint professional development to teachers and museum and library staff to create a common understanding of standards, curricula, and instructional practices in schools and the available resources at museums and libraries. They can also collaborate with local libraries and museums to provide programs and services that support new expectations for building student content knowledge.
- **Museums and libraries can** support families’ access to quality programs and services, especially for vulnerable populations; and create links to schools that support local education priorities and policies, including the Common Core state standards.

For the full report, visit <http://www.ims.gov/assets/1/AssetManager/GrowingYoungMinds.pdf>

## Webinars Worth Watching

Two Webinars originally airing in November contain valuable information about current practices and trends for family-school-community partnerships:

- FINE, the Family Involvement Network of Educators at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, sponsored the Webinar, *Using Leadership to Promote Strengths-Based Family Engagement*. View the archived Webinar at:  
[https://hgse.adobeconnect.com/\\_a1081041235/p17zr723psj/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal](https://hgse.adobeconnect.com/_a1081041235/p17zr723psj/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal).
- Education Week archived the Webinar, *Empowering Parents to Transform Schools*, available at:  
<http://edweek.org/media/131115-empoweringparents.pdf>

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The **Wisconsin E-Brief for Partnership Schools** is a bi-monthly newsletter of news, events, research, and promising practices to keep Wisconsin schools and districts focused and moving forward on family-school-community partnerships for children's learning. You are receiving this e-brief because of your involvement in a partnership-related event or initiative sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

Your comments, ideas, and stories are vital to this newsletter. Please tell us your achievements in promoting children's learning with families and community members, as well as your challenges and questions. Partnership practitioners learn most from each other, so **let's hear from you!**

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